

Amended Claim Set

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a microwave oven for exhausting pollutant ~~in a microwave oven~~ generated during a cooking process, the apparatus comprising:

a sensor part ~~formed~~ located at a predetermined portion of the microwave oven, for detecting fumes and/or moisture contained in polluted air generated during a the cooking process;

a controller for determining ~~whether or not~~ an amount of the fumes and/or moisture detected by the sensor part, the controller outputting a driving signal in response to the amount of the fumes and/or moisture exceeding is greater than a first predetermined reference value, the controller stopping outputting the driving signal in response to the amount of the fumes and/or moisture equal to or lower than a second predetermined reference value, the first predetermined reference value being higher than the second predetermined reference value; and

a fan driving part, ~~operated, when the amount detected by the controller is greater than the reference value, by a~~ the fan driving part in response to the driving signal from the controller and allowing inhaling the polluted air containing the a pollutant to be inhaled and then removed from an interior and removing the pollutant.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensor part comprises a detecting sensor installed in an intake duct part of the microwave oven.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an exhaust hole formed at a predetermined portion of the microwave oven, and allowing the air discharged by the fan driving part to be exhausted to an exterior.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a discharge duct part allowing the air inhaled by the fan driving part to be discharged into the interior; and
a filter disposed in the discharge duct part, for filtering the pollutant contained in the inhaled air.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for exhausting pollutant ~~in~~ through a microwave oven, the method comprising the steps of:

~~if foods are cooked and fumes and/or moisture are generated, detecting the fumes and/or moisture at a detecting sensor of the microwave oven; and~~
~~comparing amount of the detected fumes and/or moisture with a first reference value~~

~~to operate driving a~~ blower fan when the ~~an~~ amount of the detected fumes and/or moisture is ~~greater~~ higher than the ~~a~~ first predetermined reference value; and

~~stopping the blower fan and not to operate the blower fan~~ when the amount of the detected fumes and/or moisture is equal to or ~~less~~ lower than the ~~first~~ a second predetermined reference value, ~~the first predetermined reference value being higher than the second predetermined reference value~~ and ~~continuing to perform the detecting step.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of ~~steps:~~ maintaining an operation of the blower fan when the amount of the fumes and/or moisture detected after the blower fan is operated is greater than a second reference level; and

~~stopping the operation of the blower fan when the amount of the fumes and/or moisture detected after the blower fan is operated is equal to or less than the second reference level.~~

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein, while the blower fan is operated, the air containing polluted air is exhausted to an exterior.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the air inhaled by the blower fan is filtered and is then discharged to an interior.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for exhausting pollutant ~~in~~ through a microwave oven, the method comprising the steps of:

~~comparing an amount of fumes and/or moisture contained in the pollutant generated during a cooking process with a first reference value;~~

~~operating~~ driving a blower fan when ~~the amount~~ an amount of fumes and/or moisture contained in the pollutant generated during a cooking process is ~~greater~~ higher than the a first predetermined reference value;

purifying the pollutant; and

~~stopping the operation of~~ the blower fan when the amount of fumes and/or moisture contained in the pollutant detected after the purifying step, is equal to or lower ~~less~~ than a second predetermined reference value, the first predetermined reference value being higher than the second predetermined reference value.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the purifying step is performed by exhausting the air containing the pollutant to an exterior.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the purifying step is performed by purifying the pollutant through a filter and discharging the purified air to an interior.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the first predetermined reference value is a reference value for determining an amount of the fumes and/or moisture generated at an initial cooking stage.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the second predetermined reference value is a reference value for determining a purification degree of an interior environment when the pollutant is exhausted out of the interior by some degree.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the first predetermined reference value represents a higher pollution degree than the second predetermined reference value.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a microwave oven for exhausting pollutant in a microwave oven generated during a cooking process, the apparatus comprising:

a detecting sensor ~~formed~~ located at a predetermined position of the microwave oven, for detecting an amount of fumes and/or moisture of an air contained in pollutant;

a blower fan, the blower fan inhaling the air when the amount of the fumes and/or moisture is higher than a first predetermined reference value, the blower fan stopping inhaling the air when the amount of the fumes and/or moisture is equal to or lower than a second predetermined reference value, the first predetermined reference value being higher than the second predetermined reference value; ~~operated in accordance with a control signal from the detecting sensor;~~ and

an exhaust hole, through which the air inhaled/~~discharged~~ by the blower fan is ~~discharged~~ dischargeable to an exterior through the exhaust hole; and/or

a discharge duct part, through which the air inhaled/~~discharged~~ by the blower fan is ~~discharged~~ dischargeable to an interior through the discharge duct part.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the microwave oven is an over-the-range type.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the discharge duct part comprises a filter for filtering the pollutant.